ちはやふる

Poem 1117

末次由紀

HOW MANY YEARS HAS IT BEEN SINCE I LAST CAME TO ISE-SENSEI'S MYOUJOU SOCIETY?

ISE DAIJIROU.

A 5 TIME MEIJIN TURNED AN OFFICIAL FOR THE KARUTA ASSOCIATION AND SUBSEQUENTLY ITS CHAIRMAN.

AT PRESENT, SERVES AS THE PRESIDENT FOR THE KYOTO MYOUJOU SOCIETY.

HAVING TURNED HIS HOME INTO A PRACTICE VENUE, RESTLESSLY WORKS ON SPREADING THE KARUTA CULTURE IN THE REGION.

I CAME HERE THE FIRST TIME

WHEN I WAS 6, I THINK?

FROM *THE FIERCE GOD THAT SETS HEAVEN AND EARTH IN MOTION*

WHAT A MYSTERY.

WHY DID I ALWAYS COME HERE LIKE MY LIFE DEPENDED ON IT?

IF IT WAS JUST TO PRACTICE, I COULD JUST PRACTICE AT HOME WHENEVER I FELT LIKE IT.

A 20 MINUTE WALK FROM THE FIRST BUS STOP AFTER OUR HOUSE...

THE DISTANCE THAT ALWAYS DEPRESSED OUR HOUSEKEEPER WHO WAS IN CHARGE OF ESCORTING ME.

I CAN'T RIDE IT.

YOUNG MISS, EVEN GOING BY BYCICLE WOULD BE BETTER THAN THIS!

BUT YOUR RUNNING STYLE IS UNBECOMING OF A YOUNG LADY!

ALL-OUT SPRINT

I ATTENDED UNFAILINGLY, REGARDLESS OF THE SEASONS AND WEATHER.

tardy

YET I ALWAYS CAME HERE, IN THE COLDNESS OF WINTERS AND IN THE HOTNESS OF SUMMERS.

I BROKE INTO A RUN ONLY WHEN MY DESTINATION WAS THIS PLACE OF ISE-SENSEI'S, TOO.

tardy

I WANTED TO BECOME STRONG.

Hmph

BUT AS I AM NOW,

IS THERE REALLY ANYTHING I CAN LEARN HERE ANYMORE?

M-

MA'AM ...

SHINOBU-CHAN!

IT REALLY IS YOU, SHINOBU-CHAN!

HOW UNFORTUNATE THAT TODAY SENSEI IS TAKING A DAY OFF...

DOESN'T MATTER, COME WITH ME ANYWAY.

EVERYONE! I BROUGHT SHINOBU-CHAN!

Kyoto 明星会

.....

DID THIS SOCIETY ALWAYS HAVE SO MANY KIDS?!

IS IT BECAUSE IT'S SUMMER BREAK RIGHT NOW?

NO, WAIT, IT'S NOT LIKE I WANT--

HUSH AND JUST DO IT.

ISE-SENSEI TOLD US THAT IF SHINOBU-CHAN VISITS, WE SHOULD HAVE HER PLAY THIS GIRL.

HERE, THIS IS THE GIRL I'M TALKING ABOUT.

EH---

YUIKAWA MOMO-CHAN.

I REMEMBER THIS GIRL ...

SHE WAS MY CARD GIRL FOR THE QUEEN TITLE MATCHES...

AWWW GEEZ-- I DON'T LIKE IT WHEN THINGS SPRANG ON ME WITH NO WARNING ---

NOW I'M SWEATING BUCKETS ---

.....

NO, THAT'S NOT WHY!~~~

.....

YOU'RE GOING TO PLAY IN THE WESTERN QUALIFIER, AREN'T YOU?

COME ON, JUST DO IT.

OR WE COULD JUST WAIT FOR KOISHIKAWA-KUN...

WHY NOT NAGATA-SAN OR KUNIMURA-SAN----?!

THEY'RE TOTALLY EAGER TO SEE

WHAT THE QUEEN'S REALLY GOT

AND TO HAVE SOMETHING TO GOSSIP ABOUT.

I'M UNDER UNFORGIVING SCRUTINY HERE, HUH.

Wasu-

raruru~

HMPH.

Kyoto
明星会

IS THAT SUPPOSED TO BE A GOOD STRATEGY AGAINST RIGHT-HANDED OPPONENTS?

WHAT A STRANGE FORMATION, WITH SO MANY CARDS PLACED IN HER LOWEST LEFT ROW.

WELL, I'M LEFT-HANDED.

AND TO ME, THAT AREA ISN'T A BLIND SPOT OR ANYTHING.

...INTO POLISHING MY ATTACK TECHNIQUE ON THE LOWEST LEFT ROW OF THE ENEMY FORMA-TION...

DON'T YOU UNDERESTIMATE THE AMOUNT OF PRACTICE I'VE PUT...

LIKE THIS?

IF YOU WANT TO CHANGE YOUR FORMATION, NOW IS YOUR ONLY CHANCE.

WHAT NOW?

.....

Kyoto

Narimu beki ka na~

Mi no itazura ni~

Kyoto 明星会

.....

SNOW PRINCESS

.....

Kyoto 明星会

.....

Kyoto 明星会

Me-

THAN YOUR ORDINARY RIGHT-HANDED OPPONENTS I MOSTLY PLAY, HUH?

SO SHE'S GOING TO BE TOUGHER

OH, RIGHT.

NOW, THAT'S MORE LIKE IT.

SHE'S ALSO A LEFTIE LIKE ME.

Yay!

Momo-chan, great!

SHE TOOK A ONE-SYLLABLE CARD FROM THE QUEEN!

SHE WILL BE ABLE TO REST ASSURED TONIGHT~

I'M SO HAPPY FOR YOU, MOMO-CHAN.

AH...

Momoshiki ya~

GEEZ~ IT'S ALL BECAUSE YOU JINXED ME~

A DOUBLE FAULT IS A DOUBLE FAULT.

MOMO-CHAN, YOU LET YOUR GUARD DOWN, DIDN'T YOU?

"YOU HAVE NOW EXPERIENCED THE LIMITS OF HOW STRONG YOU CAN GET WHEN YOU'RE ALONE, HAVEN'T YOU?

YOU CAN BECOME EVEN STRONGER, I KNOW IT."

ISE-SENSEI.

DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH.

Yo no naka yo~

AH!

Koisu cho~

コポコポ

PHEW.

A 15 CARD DIFFERENCE! NOTHING LESS FROM HER, I SUPPOSE...

THANK YOU FOR THE GAME.

THANK YOU FOR THE GAME.

U-

UM ...

YOU ARE SO STRONG.

I'M IMPRESSED WITH YOU, YUIKAWA-SAN.

YOU MUST BE WORKING HARD AT YOUR COLLEGE STUDIES, TOO, NO?

WELL THEN.

IF YOU WILL EXCUSE ME NOW.

SORRY.

WE'RE ON COMPLETELY DIFFERENT LEVELS,

YOU'RE LEAVING ALREADY?!

EH?!

SHINOBU-CHAN...

I WILL BE SURE TO VISIT SOME TIME AGAIN WHEN ISE-SENSEI IS AROUND.

MY SINCERE APOLOGIES FOR MY SUDDEN INTRUSION.

THIS EXPERIENCE WAS VERY HELPFUL.

SHINOBU!

NO NEED. I HAVE NO USE FOR IT.

WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?! YOU KNOW I CAN'T GET IN TOUCH WITH YOU!

I INSIST YOU GET A CELL PHONE.

WELL, FROM NOW ON, YOU WILL.

WE HAVE RECEIVED A LOT OF OFFERS.

THEY WANT TO SEE YOU N DOCUMENTARY MINICORNER FOR NEWS ON COMMERCIAL TV,

IN A NOON RADIO SHOW

AND THERE IS EVEN A REQUEST FROM A VARIETY SHOW IDOLS USUALLY STAR ON!

SO HOT...

IT REALLY IS A LONG WALK TO THE BUS STOP...

I WON'T COME HERE AGAIN.

I'M NOT IN GRADE SCHOOL ANYMORE.

IF WE DON'T HURRY UP, WE WON'T MAKE IT IN TIME FOR THE FIRST ROUND MATCHUP DRAW!

YOU MISS! PLEASE WAIT FOR ME!

YOUNG MISS!

WHEN YOU DECIDED TO APPEAR IN THAT NHK SHOW, YOU HAD SET YOUR RESOLVE, HADN'T YOU?

TO DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO BECOME A KARUTA PROFESSIONAL PLAYER, THAT IS.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

"BECOME THE VERY FIRST PROFESSIONAL KARUTA PLAYER IN THE WORLD."

AND THIS IS WHAT IT BOILS DOWN TO.

YOU BECOME FAMOUS AND YOU PROMOTE YOURSELF

SHOWING THE WORLD HOW VALUABLE YOU ARE WHEN YOU PLAY KARUTA.

I CAN'T RUN ANYMORE.

EH

EH?

...PLEASE ALLOW US TO PRACTICE HERE.

WE DIDN'T HAVE A PLACE WE COULD PRACTICE AT, SO...

HE CAN'T DATE A GIRL!

SUDOU-SENPAI ISN'T THAT KIND OF PERSON!!!

STOP IT!!!

EEH---

NOW THAT YOU MENTION, THEY KINDA MAKE A DECENT COUPLE...

WHAT'S UP WITH THIS HIGHLY UNLIKELY COMBINATION...?

IT'S SCARY MAN, IT'S PLAIN SCARY

THINK THEY'RE DATING ...?

AWARE, TAKI, KONO, INI, SA, HARU SU,

KOI, SHIRA, NAGAKA, ARAZA, WAGA I, HANA NO...

The cards were read

I-LET'S SEE...

KIRI, TAKI, MIYO, MU...

UMM ...

I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT THOSE. I'M ASKING IF YOU REMEMBER WHAT CARDS HAD YET TO BE READ.

OF COURSE I DO. I REMEMBER THE CARDS I HAD ON HAND PERFECTLY.

OK.

YOU REMEMBER WHAT THE GAME SITUATION WAS?

I'M NOT OVER US HAVING BEEN INTERRUPTED THE OTHER DAY, SO LET'S FINISH THE GAME WE'D STARTED.

Eh~ ~~~ ~~

YOU HAVE 'ARI' RIGHT UNDER YOUR NOSE AMONG YOUR CARDS.

THEN MAYBE 'ARI'...

'AI' HADN'T BEEN READ THOUGH.

AI...

NAGARA, OGU, KIMI WA....

SCREW IT.

LET'S JUST PLAY A NEW GAME.

I'VE COPIED ALL THE READERS' AUDIO FILES, SO TAKE YOUR PICK.

WHICH READER DO YOU WANT TO HEAR FIRST?

.....

THEN YOU CAN SAY THAT YOU HAVE MEMORIZED EVERYTHING PERFECTLY, SUDOU-SAN?

MORON, WHAT A MORON YOU ARE.

NAH, IN THESE CASES THE GENERAL IDEA IS ENOUGH.

IF IT WERE TAICHI, I BET HE WOULD HAVE MEMORIZED EVERYTHING PERFECTLY...

"I WILL NOT GIVE YOU THE READERS' AUDIO SAMPLES."

Caruta

BECAUSE YOU COPIED THEM WITHOUT PERMISSION, NO?

WEREN'T YOU DYING TO GET YOUR HANDS ON THESE? WHY HOLD BACK?

...I WON'T TAKE IT.

YOU MUST NEVER RESORT TO UNFAIR PLAY.

SUOU-SAN DOESN'T REALLY CARE MUCH ABOUT THESE AUDIO SAMPLES ANYWAY.

'CAUSE HE DOESN'T REALLY THINK ANYONE ELSE BESIDES HIM CAN PUT THEM TO A GOOD USE.

He just wanted to bully you

SUDOU-SAN, NO MATTER HOW BAD YOUR PERSONALITY MAY BE,

北央
arrogance
北央★
.....
EVERY-ONE!
I WILL NEVER FORGIVE HER..
I WON'T FORGIVE HER
BEING ALL CHUMMY WITH SUDOU-SENPAI...
ひぃぃ
BUT WE HAVE ENTRANCE EXAMS TO STUDY FOR!
LET'S ALL DO OUR BEST, TOO!
THIS IS HOKUOU'S WAY OF BEING ACCOMPLISHED IN ACADEMICS AND SPORTS!
ESPECIALLY SEEING THAT OUR THIRD YEARS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO RETIRE UNTIL THE TERRITORY TEAM BATTLE IN FEBRUARY NEXT YEAR!
WE ALSO HAVE READER HIROTA'S VERSION FOR THIS.
HOKUOU IS INCRE-DIBLE!
YOU HAVE SOME-THING LIKE THAT?!
INCRE-DIBLE!
THEN HOW ABOUT THIS?
CONTAINS READER KOMINE'S READING FROM OLD DAYS.

...TO PERFECT THE *WINNING KARUTA*.

DON'T YOU LET YOUR GUARD DOWN.

MY AIM IS...

KARUTA.

WINNING

YOU DOOFUS, DOOFUS!

YOU CAN NEVER UNDERSTAND ANYTHING ABOUT THE READERS UNLESS YOU TRY READING YOURSELF!

WELL, KANA-CHAN HAS BEEN...

HAAH?

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU!

YOU'VE NEVER BEEN TO READER TRAINING HALL?!

Tare wo ka mo~

READ CAREFULLY ENUNCIATING EVERY SOUND WHILE LOOKING AT THE SECOND HAND OF YOUR WATCH.

FIRST,

READER TRAINING HALL
LECTURER
YAMASHIRO SUKYOKO

YOUR 'TARE' SOUNDS LIKE 'DARE' BECAUSE OF IT.

DO NOT START READING UNTIL YOUR MOUTH FINISHED FORMING UP FOR THE TA SYLLABLE!

Same mistake again

YOU DON'T ARTICULATE ENERGETICALLY ENOUGH!

THAT SOUNDED LIKE 'ARAZARAU' INSTEAD.

Araza-ran~

IT WILL DISTRACT THE PLAYERS.

STOP MOVING THE CARDS AROUND AND TAPPING THE RHYTHM.

HARANO-SAN, YUUKI-SAN AND SUDOU-SAN.

!!

WELL THEN, THIS TIME...

LOOK AT YOUR WATCH!

YOUR REVERBERATION DOES NOT LAST THE REQUIRED 3 SECONDS.

LOOK IN THE MIRROR TO CONFIRM YOUR ARTICULATION!

THESE 3 MAY PROCEED TO TAKE THE TEST FOR PROFESSIONAL READER'S LICENSE.

PLEASE SEND IN THE AUDIO WITH YOUR READING OF ALL THE 100 POEMS AS WELL AS THE OPENING POEM.

And enclose 120 yen stamps

WHY DO YOU PLAY KARUTA?

SUDOU-SAN...

I HEAR THEY'RE HAVING PRACTICE EVEN TODAY.

WANNA GO TO HOKUOU?

NO SPECIAL REASON.

WHAT KIND OF QUESTION IS THAT?

HUH?

OUR GUYS JUST DON'T GET TO EXPERIENCE THE SPRING-TIME OF YOUTH, EH.

Just what you'd expect from an all-guys school

DO YOU LOVE KARUTA?

WHO CARES IF I DO OR DON'T.

WHAT THE, YOU'RE STARTING TO CREEP ME OUT.

"I WANNA BECOME THE MEIJIN."

"MY AIM IS TO PERFECT THE WINNING KARUTA."

AND HIS METHODS OF SHAKING THE OPPONENT AND PUTTING PRESSURE ON THEM ARE A LOT MORE EFFECTIVE NOW.

AS FAR AS SPEED AND HEARING IS CONCERNED, SUDOU-SAN IS DEFINITELY NOT THE BEST, BUT...

C'MON, SEE THIS? I LEFT 'TAKI' LYING HERE FOR AGES. ♡

HE'S ACCURATELY TAKING THE MORE OBSCURE CARDS I'M TARGETING,

LEAVING ME NO CHANCE FOR SUCCESSIVE TAKES.

...HE OBSESSIVELY FOCUSES ON EVERY MATCH

AND KEEPS GOING HIGHER.

OW!

IT'S NO BIG DEAL, IT'S NO BIG DEAL.

WHERE?

AH. THE TATAMI'S GRASS STABBED INTO ME...

WHAT'S WRONG?

I'VE BEEN STABBED ALL OVER ALREADY ANYWAY.

SORRY. OUR TATAMI MATS ARE OLD AND HAVE SEEN BETTER DAYS.

I DON'T MIND. THE MATS IN OUR CLUB-ROOM ARE THE SAME.

IF I BECAME THE PRESIDENT OF THE KARUTA ASSOCIATION, IT'D BE FUN, DON'T YOU THINK?

SOME DAY

.....

I'M KINDA CUT OUT FOR IT, TOO, NO?

BUT IT'S NOT IMPOS-SIBLE, RIGHT?

IT'S NOT MY DREAM OR ANY-THING,

HA HA.

I'LL FIND NORMAL EMPLOY-MENT,

BUT STILL CONTINUE PLAYING KARUTA,

ALWAYS CONTINUE.

EVEN WHEN I BECOME AN OLD GEEZER, I WILL STILL CONTINUE PLAYING IT.

AND I WILL DO ALL KINDS OF ADMINISTRATIVE WORK FOR THE ASSOCIATION AT THE SAME TIME

SO THAT MY KOUHAIS FROM THE KARUTA CLUB

COULD PLAY KARUTA WITHOUT HAVING TO WORRY ABOUT A THING.

I'LL DO IT WHILE I WORK A NORMAL JOB, OF COURSE.

THAT'S MY VERSION OF BEING ACCOMPLISHED BOTH AT ACADEMICS AND AT SPORTS.

ALL THE CHAIRMEN THE ASSOCIATION EVER HAD ARE EX-MEIJINS, Y'KNOW.

FUNNY, AIN'T IT-

That's my version of being accomplished in academics and sports... both!

Scratch Scratch

Scratch

Y'ALL PISS ME OFF.

STOP IT, ALL OF YOU.

.....

SUDOU-SAN AS THE CHAIRMAN!

THE CHAIR-MAN..

AND DON'T ENJOY IT WHEN I'M KICKING YOU!

SO DAMN ANNOY-ING!

STOP WEEPING!

AND THEN I WILL GATHER CLUB MEMBERS LIKE KANA-CHAN AND TSUKUE-KUN AGAIN.

I'VE GOT TO DO IT NO MATTER WHAT.

I, TOO, HAVE GOT TO BECOME A TEACHER AT A HIGH SCHOOL KARUTA CLUB.

AMAZ-ING.

".. WILL NOW RETIRE AND TAKE A BREAK FROM KARUTA."

mi no e no-

Su-

TSUKUE-KUN, YOU'VE GOT TO BE MORE AGGRESSIVE WHEN ATTACKING!

Waga sode wa-

TOO SLOW! YOU COULD'VE TAKEN HAT!

4

1

AYASE.

WHAT DO THOSE WITH EXCEPTIONAL SENSES HEAR?

TRUTH BE TOLD, NO MATTER HOW MUCH I LISTEN TO THOSE RECORDINGS, FOR ME IT'S USELESS.

I'M JUST NOT MADE IN THE SAME MOLD FROM THE GET-GO.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO TO WIN AGAINST HIM...?

"I HAVE 28 ONE-SYLLABLE CARDS."

I DON'T REALLY KNOW MYSELF.

SO PLEASE FEEL FREE TO USE ANY AND ALL TECHNIQUES YOU'VE GOT ON ME.

BUT WHAT I PERSONALLY STRIVE TO ACCOMPLISH IS IMPROVING MY SPEED.

HOW DULL.

FIGURES, DUH.

YOU DON'T, HUH.

YET.

LET'S WELCOME THE QUEEN, WHO ALSO HAPPENS TO BE A BONA FIDE HIGH SCHOOL GIRL,

WAKAMIYA SHINOBU-SAN! GIVE IT UP FOR HER!

THESE GIRLS ARE FROM KYOTO! HOW LOVELY~

NEVERMIND MARUMARO AND MARO-NII, BOTH DENIZENS OF THE HEIAN PERIOD.

AS WELL AS JUPIA FROM HAWAII, PLAY A KARUTA MATCH WITH THE QUEEN~

UM, SO, TODAY'S GAME PLAN IS TO HAVE MAKO-CHAN AND KEINA-CHAN FROM KYOTO,

WE ARE HERE TOO~~~

HYOU~

Hito mo oshi~

YOU DO WANT TO BECOME A PRO PLAYER, RIGHT?

AND FOR TV, FUN AND ENTERTAIN-MENT IS THE TOP PRIORITY.

YOU'RE DEALING WITH TV NOW.

NO! I DON'T WANT TO

YOU CAN DESTROY MARUMARO AND MARO-NII,

BUT LET JUPIA-CHAN TAKE SOME CARDS

SHE TOOK A CARD FROM THE QUEEN!!!

WOW! FOR REAL?! JUPIA-CHAN IS AWESOME!

JUPIA SAID SHE STUDIED THE HYAKUNIN ISSUE AT HAWAII!

SHE'S SO ADMIRABLE!

THE QUEEN WAS LEFT EMPTY-HANDED?

Shinobu~

redo~

WAH!

ALTHOUGH THAT COMES WITH CALLUSES ON YOUR FEET.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO TRY TO BECOME THE QUEEN?

YOU WERE REACTING SO FAST, JUPIA-SAN.

Aw, that's a problem ~~~

BEING MEAN IS A NO!

BEING MEAN IS A NO!

UFUFUFU

HOW ADORABLE~

CAN YOU EVEN SAY SHE STUDIED IT THEN?

Ahahaha

SHE ONLY MEMORIZED 5 POEMS THOUGH.

Lucky me ♡

OH I SEE~

Ah, ha ha ha

THERE WAS ONE ABOUT MANIMANI SOMETHING, RIGHT?

Um, let's see~

MAKO-CHAN, DO YOU REMEMBER ANY POEMS?

CAN YOU TELL US WHAT THE CARDS ARE SAYING RIGHT NOW?

QUEEN, YOU REVEALED THAT YOU SEE THE CARDS AS SMALL HUMAN-SHAPED GODS, RIGHT?

Kya ha ha ha

Ah ha ha ha

THEY'RE SAYING

THEY ARE

HAVING LOTS OF FUN RIGHT NOW.

EH~ YOU CAN'T TELL THAT!

Kya ha ha ha

SCARY~

Ah ha ha ha

SMALL GODS ARE SCARY!

COME ON, SHINOBU, YOU SHOULD THANK THE PRODUCER FOR THE KIND INVIT~~~

SHINO-BU...?

SHE'S SUCH A GOOD ACTRESS, REALLY~

WHY THANK YOU~

I GOTTA SAY~ THE QUEEN REALLY IS GOOD AT THIS!

SHE FOLLOWED OUR SCENARIO FAITHFULLY AND WAS SO NATURAL ABOUT IT!

...I CAN'T HEAR THEM ...

THEY'RE NOT TALKING.

SHINO-BU...!

THEY'RE NOT SAYING

AH.

ANYTHING AT ALL.

TDX Release
Chihayafuru
SPECIAL THANKS
Redrawing:
Nazo no Seibutsu